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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

AT RICHMOND, JANUARY 13, 1999

PETITION OF

VIRGINIA COMMITTEE FOR FAIR
UTILITY RATES and OLD DOMINION
COMMITTEE FOR FAIR UTILITY RATES
and VIRGINIA INDUSTRIAL GAS
USERS ASSOCIATION

CASE NO. PUE980788

To institute a formal investigation
for the purpose of determining all
matters concerning the Year 2000
compliance of Virginia Electric and
Power Company, Appalachian Power
Company, Columbia Gas of Virginia,
and Virginia Natural Gas, Inc.

ORDER

On November 10, 1998, the above-styled petition was filed
by the named coalitions of industrial customers ("Petitioners")
of the named utilities. On November 24, 1998, the Commission
entered an order permitting responses to the petition.

Responses were filed on behalf of Virginia Natural Gas, Inc.,
Columbia Gas of Virginia, Inc., Virginia Electric and Power
Company, Appalachian Power Company, and the Commission Staff.

On December 15, 1998, Petitioners filed additional comments in
response to these pleadings.

NOW THE COMMISSION, being sufficiently advised, is of the
opinion that the relief requested in the petition should be, and

is, denied. The Commission shares the concerns of the Petitioners about the Year 2000 computer difficulties, and has directed its Staff to maintain regular contact with each of the named utilities and to receive reports from each as to its efforts to remediate the "Y2K" problem. The Commonwealth's utilities have cooperated in this informal undertaking and have supplied the Commission with a satisfactory type and amount of information about their efforts thus far. The Commission is not convinced from Petitioners' pleadings that a formal investigatory hearing need be commenced now.

This is not to say that the Commission can guarantee that there will be no interruption of service at the stroke of midnight on December 31, 1999. Simply, the Commission believes utilities should spend their resources to address the problem and not to prepare for formal hearings on the subject. Should it appear from the informal briefings given to Staff that the effort is flagging, the Commission will consider additional appropriate responsive steps.

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED THAT the petition is denied and this matter is dismissed.